

REMARKS

Claims 1-50 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicant has amended claims 16, 26-28, 35, 37, 47 and 48 to correct obvious grammatical and typographical errors. Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 6, 12, 14, 15, 27, 38 and 43-48 are independent.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e):

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-12, 14 and 38-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0142757A1 to Leung et al. ("Leung"). Claims 1, 6, 12, 14, 38 and 43-46 are independent.

As explained in a prior response, one embodiment of Applicant's invention provides a method for enabling a mobile terminal to quickly identify network services, such as digital audio or video broadcasts, in a multi-bearer network. Such broadcasts may be, e.g., radio or television programs. In one embodiment, the identification of network services is accomplished by the use of pointer data in each of the channels in the system. The pointer data identifies an all-announcement channel, which includes announcements identifying each of the services transmitted on each of the channels in the system. In this manner, bandwidth is conserved by the network's not having to transmit service information on each channel. Likewise, time is saved by the user's not having to search each channel in the system for a service of interest.

Applicant's invention, as defined by claim 1, is directed to a method of providing service announcement information, comprising: transmitting at least one of a digital audio or video broadcast service on a first channel; and transmitting pointer data on the first channel,

wherein the pointer data identifies a second channel on which a service announcement identifying the service transmitted on the first channel is located.

Leung is directed to transmitting a broadcast session on a broadcast channel while also transmitting broadcast overhead information on the broadcast channel. (Leung, ¶0015) The “overhead information” is disclosed as parameters and protocols for processing the broadcast content. (Leung, Abstract)

Although the paragraphs of Leung relied upon in rejecting claim 1 -- namely, ¶¶ 0042, 0058 & 0059, mention a “broadcast service schedule” (see ¶ 0059), there is no teaching or suggestion in the cited paragraphs of transmitting, on a first channel, both a broadcast service and pointer data that identifies a second channel that contains a service schedule that identifies the service being transmitted on the broadcast channel. Moreover, the “overhead messages” mentioned in ¶ 0059 do not correspond to the claimed “pointer data” because, in contrast to claim 1, Leung discloses that upon reading the overhead messages, the mobile station merely “tunes to the frequency containing the HSBS [High-Speed Broadcast Service] channel and receives the broadcast service content”. In other words, the overhead messages that are read do not “identif[y] a second channel on which a service announcement identifying the service transmitted on the first channel is located”, as required by claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is not anticipated by Leung.

In addition, if the Examiner persists in the rejection of claim 1 in view of Leung, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner identify what exactly in the cited passages of Leung the Examiner contends corresponds to the “pointer data” and the “service announcement”, as recited in claim 1.

Claims 6, 12, 14, 38 and 43-46 contain features similar to those found in claim 1, and thus, are allowable for at least the same reasons as set forth above in urging the allowance of claim 1.

Applicant notes that the Examiner relies on ¶ 0095 of Leung in rejecting claims 43 and 44, rather than ¶¶ 0042, 0058 & 0059, even though these claims are article of manufacture counterparts to method claims 1 and 6. Applicant has reviewed the cited passage of Leung and respectfully submits that it does not teach or suggest the above-discussed feature of claim 1. Instead, it merely is directed to transmitting parameters for processing content as a Block of Bits in an overhead message.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 15-37, 47 and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Leung in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,519,455 to McCormick et al. ("McCormick"). Claim 49 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Leung in view of McCormick and U.S. Patent No. 6,463,585 to Hendricks. Claim 50 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Leung in view of McCormick. Claims 15, 27, 47 and 48 are independent.

Claim 15 is directed to a method of accessing a communication channel from a plurality of communication channels within a network with a mobile terminal capable of receiving at least one signal from at least one of the communications channels within the network, the method comprising: identifying at least one communication channel that is transmitting signals receivable by the mobile terminal; accessing a first communication channel that is transmitting at least one signal receivable by the mobile terminal; receiving first signals from the first communications channel; searching in the first signals for redirection information; selecting and accessing a second communication channel from the plurality of communication

channels based on the redirection information, if the redirection information is received within a first period of time; and selecting and accessing a third communication channel if the redirection information is not received within the first period of time.

McCormick is directed to providing a handoff of a mobile broadcast of information specific to a geographic region. Such geographically specific information may be traffic reports, sightseeing interests, weather, etc.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Leung and McCormick fails to result in Applicant's invention as defined by claim 15.

The Office Action provides that the claimed features of "searching in the first signals for redirection information" and "selecting and accessing a second communication channel ... if the redirection information is received within a first period of time; and selecting and accessing a third communication channel if the redirection information is not received within the first period of time", are taught by McCormick at col. 3, lines 21-65; col. 4, lines 32-48; and col. 9, lines 44-60.

Although the cited passages of McCormick refer to "a new eight bit (octet) parameter" (see, e.g., McCormick, col. 3, lines 55-59) that is used in the handoff procedure, this message is received by a target switching center, whereas claim 15 is directed to a method performed by a mobile terminal. McCormick discloses mobile units monitoring beacon channels of surrounding cell sites or transceivers to determine signal strengths, which the mobile units then transmit to the serving cell site as an ordered list of signal strengths (see, e.g., McCormick, col. 8, lines 16-27). However, monitoring signal strengths does not involve "searching in the first signals for redirection information", as required by claim 15.

In addition, although a mobile unit in McCormick receives a message from a serving cell site to tune to a broadcast channel of a target cell site (see, e.g., McCormick, col. 8, line 65 – col. 9, line 1), this merely involves the mobile unit switching from one channel to another whenever instructed by the serving cell site to do so, rather than a mobile terminal accessing either of two different channels (either the claimed “second channel” or “third channel”) depending on whether or not redirection information is received by the mobile terminal on a first channel within a first period of time, as required by claim 15.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 15 is patentable over the combination of Leung and McCormick.

If the Examiner persists in the rejection of claim 15 in view of Leung and McCormick, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner identify what exactly in the cited passages of McCormick the Examiner contends corresponds to the “first channel”, “redirection information”, “second channel”, “third channel”, and “first period of time”, as recited in claim 15.

Claims 27, 47 and 48 contain features similar to those found in claim 15, and thus, are respectfully asserted to be allowable for at least the same reasons as set forth above in urging the allowance of claim 15.

Dependent Claims:

Applicant does not believe it necessary at this time to address the rejections of the dependent claims as Applicant believes that the foregoing arguments and amendments place the independent claims in condition for allowance. Applicant, however, reserves the right to address those rejections in the future should such a response be deemed necessary and appropriate.

For the above-stated reasons, this application is respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance, and an early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

AUTHORIZATION

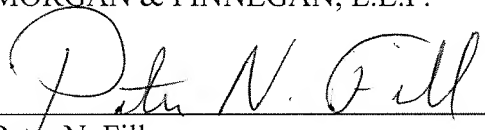
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required by this response, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 4208-4061. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS PAPER IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 4208-4061. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS PAPER IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: April 21, 2006

By: _____


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